The Comic Reader

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK FANS AND COLLECTORS

BATMAN HITS THE DAILIES!

National is dealing with the Ledger Syndicate about a new Batman newspaper strip to be seen in papers all over the country. I will have more details next issue. In the meantime, write to your local papers and ask them to get the Batman strip. It could help the comic editor decide to take the strip.

THE COMIC READER, the official newsletter of the Academy of Comic Book Fans And Collectors, is edited and published monthly by Derrill Rothermich. TCR is a non-profit amatuer fanzine published for the enjoyment of comic fans.

First of all let me make an explanation of TCR #46. I decided to try one of the wholesale printing organizations in an effort to cut the cost of TCR. However, I will never do that again and have gone back to my local printer. First of all, they said that they would have TCR ready almost two weeks before I actually got the issue. However, most importantly it was one of the worst jobs of printing I have seen in a long time. I promise that this will never happen again. I would rather pay a little more and get a decent job. This issue of TCR is purposely a little late becauses it is being held up to allow for the counting of some ballots for the Alley Poll that arrived quite late.

I have been disatisfied with TCR ever since I took it over. It just isn't quite what I want it to be. Jim and I have been kicking around a lot of ideas the last few months and after much consideration have settled on one idea that we feel will benefit all concerned. Since the death of Comic World there has been a lack of quality article fanzines in Fandom with Heroes Illustrated being about the only one left. TCR itself will be revamped so it will be able to help fill this void and also so that it will have more variety in content. TCR will be lengthened to an average of about 34 pages per issue and be published on a quarterly schedule. Virtually all of the present features such as Ego Crusher, Bidgee, Fox, Question Corner, Picto-Origins, and the lettercol will be retained. Under this new plan these features will appear every issue. Special columns will include Point Of View whenever Larry Herndon can put one together. New additions to TCR would then include a full color cover every issue plus a major article or two. Such a zine would then have virtually everything that a comic fan could possibly want. You are probably now wondering what will become of the news column. Well, it would become a separate publication to be issued monthly. This way the news will always be as fresh as possible because the printer wouldn't have to delay this while he printed the rest of TCR.

Under this system the next issue of TCR will be out about the middle of May and run 34 pages in length. As I have said before, there will be a full color cover which I just received the sameday as this editorial is being written and I can guarantee that you have never seen a cover like this before. It is done by one of the best pros of our day but I won't say just who but will leave that as a surprise. This issue will also include original artwork done by Reed Crandall. Ray Miller will have another long Question Corner with art by Alan Hutchinson. Fox, Picto-Origins, Bidges, and the lettercol are other items to be definitely in this issue. All of this is definite and not just guess work. The major item that will be in TCR #48 is a 13 page article by Glen Johnson about the old Novelty line of comics with artwork done by Doug Potter. This is what TCR #48 will be like--a total of 34 pages of top material. Other items scheduled for future issues include THEM JUSTICE GUYS by special arrangement with Roy Thomas and an article about a feature of the old All Star Comics that Jerry Bails has just recently discovered.

Now you are probably wondering how much all of this will cost you. Well, it will be $ .90 per quarter for Academy members and $1.00 for non-members. This amounts to $3.60 and $4.00 per year which is just a little more than you are paying now. For this you would receive the giant TCR every three months and On The Drawing Board monthly. You would be getting extra fresh news plus one of the very best fanzines in comicdom. Naturally there are a few advantages to Jim and I. These include a little more free time plus the fact that we won't have to operate in scarlet red anymore. I think you will agree that the price is perfectly reasonable. Each of you will find a statement as to your subscription position with this issue. You will know exactly where you stand. I would not have made this move if I wasn't satisfied that it is for the best. TCR is a fanzine that can stand on its own even without the news column and now it will do so. TCR will now be even greater than ever before and I think you will agree that the change is for the best. Here will be the Alter Ego competitor that I have been trying to create. The issues will all be sent flat in an envelope. I would suggest that you don't miss it because I am certain that you will be overjoyed with it.

This summer there will definitely be a SF-Comicon in St Louis at some date still to be determined. This is being cosponsored by the Ozark Science Fiction Club and the Gateway Comic Book Fan Club of St. Louis, Missouri. This is about as central a location as you could possibly want so comic and sf fans from throughout the nation can attend with little effort. Ted White, assistant editor of The Magazine of Fantasy and SF and a long time comic fan, will be one of the guest speakers. There will be free table space for all dealers who register in advance. The program will also include a round table discussion with Biljo White, Steve Gerber, Roy Thomas, Don and Maggie Thompson, and myself as tentative members. More information will appear in TCR #48. Anyone interested in attending should send a long s.a.e. to Robert Schoenfeld, 9516 Minerva, Overland, Missouri 63114. This is shaping up to be a great con so I urge all of you who think you might be able to attend to contact Bob as soon as possible.

Marvel and National have made objections to Bill Dubay's use of their characters in his Picto-Origins column. Bill is still discussing the situation with National in regard to a Picto-Origin he wants to do on Plastic Man but I can't see anyway that he might get permission to do it. So future installments of this column will avoid characters copyrighted by these two companies and keep to heroes who were published by companies no longer in existence. This won't necessarily handicap Bill because there is a wealth of quality material from these other companies from which to take future columns. There is no wish on either of our parts to cause trouble between fandom and the pro ranks. Picto-Origins scheduled to appear in TCR in the near future include ones on Stuntman and the Hangman.

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When you send coins through the mail, please make sure that they are securely taped to a piece of cardboard or the letter itself. Actually it is best if you don't send cash at all but money orders or checks. This is for your protection, not mine. Also, make sure that you have ample postage on your letters and packages as it is easier for you to do this than for me.

If you would like a quick reply from me and you are not a regular correspondent, send a s.a.e. Otherwise your answer will be sent with the next issue of OTDB. In fact, when you request information from any extremely busy fan, this is advisable. Not only isit a service to the fan but it will help you get an answer more rapidly.

Print run for this issue is 500. Copies of TCR #42-46 still are available. You can also still get some odd pages from other issues from Glen Johnson for a 10¢ s.a.e.

Only ads accepted in advance will run in TCR. Send an s.a.e. for a reply as to whether your ad is accepted. Please check with me regarding the size of any illustrated ads you may want to run. Ad rates are $2.00 per hal page and $4.00 per full page. Enclosures are $3.00 if printed on one side and $5.00 if on two.

Future issues of TCR will be published quarterly with On The Drawing Board being issued monthly. You can get both for $ .90 a quarter ($3.60 per year) if you are an Academy member or $1.00 per quarter ($4.00 per year) if you are a non-member. You can get TCR alone for $ .75 and OTDB alone is $ .10 per month. OTDB will be sent overseas air mail for the same price of $ .10 per month. In the event that the Academy disbands, all reductions are automatically voided except the overseas special price.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Bill Dubay, 2792 Diamond Street, San Francisco, California 94112

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Marvel--Thing, Giantman, Human Torch, Spiderman, Thor, Nick Fury, Captain America, Dr. Doom, Wasp, Invisible Girl, Mr. Fantastic
National--Flash, Batman and Robin, Spectre, Wonder Woman, Dr. Fate
United Feature Syndicate--Peanuts
Fawcett--Captain Marvel, Jr.
Gold Key--Magnus
ACG--Herbie
REFCO--Fox

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE:

Cover--Doug Potter
Editorial--Derrill Rothermich
On The Drawing Board--David Kaler
Alley Awards Poll--Glen Johnson and Derrill Rothermich
Thing--JACK KIRBY
Fox--Ronn Foss
My 8 Hours With Batman--David Kaler
Ego-Crusher--Jim King
Comic Immortals--Doug Potter
Dr. Fate--Jim Sullivan
Peanuts--Paul Thompson

STAFF:

Editor and Publisher--Derrill Rothermich
Subscription Editor--Jim King
News Editor--David Kaler
Artists--Doug Potter, Gary Povlin, Bill Dubay, Biljo White, Ronn Foss, Alan Hutchinson
Writers--John Ryan, Ray Miller, Glen Johnson, Jim King, Dave Kaler, Bob Jennings

THE "OLD" CAPTAIN AMERICA! Marvel has seen the handwriting on the wall and decided to really get some old tales for their reprint books. The result was that Fantasy Masterpieces will become a quarter book with issue #3. And they have printed old Captain America tales from 1941 with a few alterations here and there in panels.

PLASTIC MAN AND FOR REAL! Robby Reed has been dialing up any number of heroes in the "Dial H For Hero" strip. In House of Mystery #160, he dials up one of the wonders of the comic book world and it is the real thing...Plastic Man! Watch Robby as he stretches himself to new glory to spoil the plans of the Wizard of Light!

ROBIN MOORE AND KUBERT GALORE! The Green Beret has made the big time! The syndicate run by the New York News has taken over this strip and will be syndicating it all over the country

starting on Monday, April 4, 1966. And the big thrill is it is also a Sunday strip in full color! For all out there who don't save newspaper strips, this may be the one to start with.

PAPERBACKS SPELL ADVENTURE AND COMICS. Bantam finally got around to releasing a new Doc Savage. It is called The Phantom City and can be found on the stands right now. Bradbury is back for a second time in reprints of EC material and this time it is sci-fi and not horror. The book is called Tomorrow Midnight and is from Ballentine. There will be sequels to the other EC reprint books before too long. If you are looking for murder, then join the Phantom Detective when he goes out to solve The Green Glare Murders and faces the Fangs of Murder. These two titles brings the series up to twelve. Lancer is bringing the Marvel Age to paperbacks. If you look close enough you'll be able to find the Fantastic Four and Spiderman on the book shelves of your local dealer.

MIGHTY COMICS MOVING UP! It looks like some of the characters featured in that free-for-all called The Mighty Crusaders #4 hit it big with the youngsters. In issue #5, the Web, Fox, and Captain Flag join in at the beginning to help the regular cast fight the Sinister Agents of the Nameless Ones.

BATMAN COMICS ONLY! The Weather Wizard really blows up a storm when he decides to invade Gotham City and take on Batman and Robin. It all happens in issue #353 of Detective. In the 80 Page Giant that month, you'll find six weird tales about the Strange Lives Of Batman and Robin. You'll see Batmen of all types--Joker Batman, Rainbow Batman, Batman Jr., and Robot Batman.

JERRY ROBINSON BOOKS. Mr. Robinson has come a long way since he ghosted the art work for Bob Kane in the early 40s. He now has two syndicated strips, "Still Life" and "Flubs and Flufs", being seen across the nation. And two new books with illustrations by him can be found in most book stores. The titles are "Science Teasers" (Harper & Row) and "Search for a Living Fossil" (Scholastic Books).

VARIETY FROM ACG. Herby will have you holding your sides when issue #19 hits the stands. He finds himself in a Race Through Space and having an Egyptian Conniption. Over in Unknown Worlds such tales as The Beam That Bounced about time travel and Mike Nelson's Three Wishes may give you some chills and thrills.

SPEEDY RETURNS! It had to happen what with all the letters that DC was getting about the Teen Titans. The teenage sidekick of Green Arrow, Speedy, uses his arrow talent to help out when the whole gang visits Tokyo and learns an Untold Tale of the Olympics.

THE WEB--ENOUGH SAID! It seems that yellow and green character out of the Golden Age has been making it good this second time around. In the July issue of Fly Man, he takes over ten pages and replaces the Shield. The title of the adventure concerns itself with The Capers of a Mad Man.

GUMMING UP THE COMICS. You can add Bubble Gum cards to the sets of things that you'll be collecting of the comic heroes and characters. Topps has a set out now based on Space Family Robinson which became Lost In Space for TV. And they are now working on a set of 55 cards in color with new art on Batman. You'll be able to find 11 cards each devoted to Batman, the Joker, Penguin, Cat Woman, and the Riddler. There may be two sets of cards out on the Marvel Comics soon. The Don Russ Co. of Memphis, Tennessee is interested in doing a series and so is a company in Philadelphia. What they will be like, I can't tell as they aren't sure themselves. I do know that you'll be able to find Thor, Spidey, the Hulk, and Sgt. Fury in vending machines by the time that you read this. But they'll all be little Mini-Books.

FACING THE FUTURE

SUPERMAN IN TROUBLE! The Superman musical looks like it is plagued by Kryptonite! When the show opened in Philadelphia in February, the critics all responded as if they were Toyman, Luthor, and Brainac. There weren't many kind words about the show, although the persons in the cast where all describedas competent. They just didn't have any material to work with in the show.

Linda Lavin, as gal-Friday on the Daily Planet, and Bob Holiday, portraying Clark Kent, rehearse scene in "It's a Bird . . . It's a Plane . . . It's SUPERMAN," musical beginning tryout Feb. 15 at the Shubert.

SHOWCASE SALVOS! DC is banking on the Spectre and the Inferior 5 in a big way. The third strip in each of these series is being worked on right now for the Sept-Oct issue of Showcase. In the meanwhile you can meet those merry madmen, the Inferior Five, in issue #63 when they reveal their alter egos and take on the likes of Man-Mountain. Shades of Mad Magazine!

REPRINTS BY MARVEL. In Marvel Tales #3, you'll find four items from the early days of the Marvel Age of Comics. Spidey battles the Lizard. Thor is captured by the Executioner. The first Human Torch tale in Strange Tales is in this one as well as a Henry Pym-AntMan tale where he battles Egghead.

BIG BATTLERS BY KANIGHER. Fighting Forces has Captain Hunter in the rice fields of Viet Nam asking himself how far he has to go to keep a promise in the Killer Of Viet Nam. Over in All American Men of War, Steve Savage breaks more rules and finds himself watching a young firl die because of his recklessness in the tale of the Circle of Death. Captain Storm finds himself on a floating target when the enemy gets the command to Sink Captain Storm! And Sgt. Rock finds himself in the dark and heading for the Nazi lines when he gets blinded. Only he has a wounded soldier on his back and he is really a nazi leading him in the wrong direction in Our Army At War.

ACTION FROM ACG. Forbidden Worlds will feature Magic Man all by Himself after Nemesis leaves to return to the pages of Adventure Into The Unknown. Magis Man will find himself being brainwashed by people from outer space while Nemesis gets involved in a Fight To the Finish. That new character from ACG has been temporarily shelved. He'll come out but at a later date.

THE JLA'S SOLO TALES. Aquaman finds himself being condemned by his own son when the tike takes over the throne of Atlantis! Paula Von Gunter turns up out of the Golden Years and trys to take Steve Trevor away from Wonder Woman. It's enough to turn the Amazon into a threat and it does when she becomes Danger-Wonder Woman! And there is a colorful crowd over in Green Lantern #46. But they don't have smiles on their faces when all the Green Lanterns come to earth to attend the funeral of the Green Lantern Of Earth. It takes more than being a descendent of the original man from Krypton to help the Superman of the Future when he has to battle a villain that is all brain in the pages of Action #339.

DAN FLAGG'S NEW WRITER. Don Sherwood has handed the pen to Jerry Thomas to do the scripts for the Dan Flagg daily and Sunday strips. Sherwood will continue the artfrom his New York studio but Thomas will be sending the scripts across the country from California. It's all being done so that Flagg will be more identifiable to the readers and make them feel that the characters are real and warm people that they would like to know.

NATIONAL'S NEWIES. Metamorpho finds himself underground and trying to save the whole of Terra Firma from an extinction of Humanity in his seventh issue. But Prince Ra-Man may have more of a problem on his hands when he battles Eclipso again in another book-length feature of House of Secrets. Eclipso has powers over time in this issue when he becomes the Master of Yesterday and Tomorrow. And Jack Schiff features both the Immortal Man and A-Man, the man with animal powers,in Strange Adventures #190.

GROUP GOSSIP FROM DC. Blackhawk finds he has a little too much too handle when the Man From $E=MC^2$ comes calling to wipe out the whole gang. The Seadevils go ape when a real one shows up that thinks, swims, talks, and breathes underwater and outsmarts them. Adventure #346 looks like another first from Fandom. The story was adapted from the script and art done by a 14-year-old from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Shelly Moldorf is the artist for this two parter which intsoduces four new members to the Legion--Nemesis Kid, Ferro-Lad, Princess Projecto, and Karate Kid. The only trouble is that one is a traitor.

THE BATMAN BULLETIN!

TV FIRST. Julie Newman will be around to portray the purr-fect villainess, the Catwoman in one show called naturally, "Purr-fect Crimes." And Adam West will be seen singing on the Hollywood Palace on April 16th. And Batman is so good in the ratings that every producer around wants to get a comic character of his own to put on TV. Besides the ones that I've mentioned in previous columns, Hollywood is considering shows on Buck Rogers, Archie, Flash, Captain Midnight, Brenda Starr, Metamorpho, Plastic Man and even Captain Marvel. But if they never show up on the TV scene, don't blame me. Out of some 200 pilots shot last year, only 35 will ever get to be seen by the public. Certain for this Fall will be the Superman cartoon show on Saturday from CBS. Bud Collyer will be doing the voice again for the Man of Steel just as hedid for the radio series in the 40s. The Tarzan series will be on but it will star Ron Ely instead of Mike Henry.

TOYS GALORE. Batman can be seen all over the dimestores now. Besides the model and the puppets that I've reported before you can now get two paing and color sets featuring Batman. Hasbro also has a game out on Batmen. There is a T-shirt being sold with the Batman logo across the chest. But it only comes in sizes 6 to 16. And the producers of the TV show keep promising Batcapes, ray guns, masks, Batmobiles, do-it-yourself-Batcaves. But I'll believe it when I see them or your letters arrive telling me that you bought them and how much they cost. Besides Batman, Superman, and Wonder Woman are being featured in games and puzzles. That goes for Zorro also who can be found in puzzles, books, models, records, and coloring books.

PLATTER CHATTER. If you can't hear enough of the Batman Theme on Wednesday and Thursday, then hop over to the record shop and pick up a couple of these discs to fill in the other days of the week. RCA has the composer of the theme music conducting the music on a long play record which features other themes from the show. Warner Brothers has a teen group called The Marketts handling Batman for them. Dolton uses the Ventures to play the Batusi and themes from TV spy shows. And there is a Reprise album called Sunday Morning With The Comics. This has a fabulous superhero on the album jacket and features the theme music from some of the old radio shows of the 40s.

BATMAN IN OTHER MEDIA. The National Observer for January 24 used Batman in an interesting article on Nostalgia. Family Weekly featured The Return of Batman as one of the many little items run in its regular feature "What In The World" for February 13. Life magazine ran a one page article on the show in the February 4 issue. And the Detroit Free Press just ran items on Batman. It its magazine section for January 30, the Puz-

zle Of The Perilous Prizes was reviewed rather humorously by Bobby Mather. The only fault to the piece is that the writer credits Bob Kane with the story and art. Bill Finger did the story while I haven't got my copy of that issue handy so that I might check on who does the art. And on February 20, they ran a full article on the Batmobile which gave a life history of the fabulous car from the very first time that its engine turned over. And if you're interested in a Kosher version of the Caped Crusader, pick up a copy of the small cartoon book called "Batmensch." Some of the jokes will go by you if you aren't Jewish but there is fun in the ones that everyone should understand.

BOB KANE AT MACY'S. On January 13, Macy's New York store opened a new shop for boys called the Tiger Shop. To help publicize the show, Bob Kane exhibited his "POW" art and made a personal appearance in the store. The store was crowded with kids and adults alike that afternoon. Many members of Fandom were there to meet Bob Kane and try to get an autograph. One of the treats of the afternoon was to watch Bob Kane do two illustrations on large sheets of art board with Magic Marker. He did the Joker and Batman and Robin for the audience. The surprising thing was that the art looked very much like the material turned out in the early fourties and not at all like the work being turned out by National with the Kane signature on it. Bob Kane finished the program by signing large pictures of Batman for many of the fans present. These same pictures are now being sold around the nation for $1.00. Only they aren't autographed! The "POW" art pictures will go on exhibit in New York sometime in the future for the Damon Runyon Cancer Fund. These paintings are great and show many of the early villains of the strip. But the best one shows Batman behind a large chimney looking down on the sleeping city. It would be a great conversation piece in any home. But the price would run many times the cost of the original comics of the Golden Age. So all anyone can do is dream!

Academy of Comic Book Fans & Collectors ALLEY AWARDS POLL

Well, the votes to this year's Alley Poll are finally in and tabulated. While not as many as expected bothered to vote, there were still a substantial number of votes to determine the winners. When Glen sent the results of the votes he had counted it was evident that the total number of ballots cast really didn't matter as the results he sent were virtually the same as the results that I had gained from the ballots sent to Jim and I. Over and over again the same patterns appeared in the individual votes. Due to the new voting system, I think that I can say that this is the most accurate poll yet conducted. Many of the winners were easily predictable but there were some real surprises especially in the Pencil Artist category. Rather than going into a long analysis of these results here and at this particular time, I have assigned this job to Rick Weingroff. So for those of you who have been asking for more work by him be sure to read his article in next issue. There were several interesting comments from the readers on the poll itself. Most approved of the way it was handled but there were just a very few complaints. Most of these amounted to a personal difference of opinion. However some valuable suggestions were made that will be passed on to who ever handles the poll next year. Undoubtably there will be many changes for the better in the future. There would have been more changes this year if not for the time element. Pro Otto Binder added a suggestion that the poll be designed to honor Golden Age greats as well as the greats of today.

PRO CATEGORIES

1. Best Adventure Hero Comic Book
   - 23.4% Spiderman
   - 22.5% Fantastic Four
   - 18.5% Hawkman
   - 18.1% Magnus
   - 17.5% Daredevil

2. Best Regularly Published Fantasy Comic Book
   - 21.2% Strange Adventures
   - 20.2% Forbidden Worlds
   - 20.1% Mystery In Space
   - 19.9% Twilight Zone
   - 18.6% Boris Karloff, Tales of Mystery

3. Best Humor Comic Book
   - 24.2% Herbie
   - 21.8% Uncle Scrooge
   - 20.7% Bob Hope
   - 18.6% Walt Disney's Comics And Stories
   - 14.7% Fox & Crow

4. Best Miscellaneous Fiction
   - 26.0% Sgt. Fury
   - 25.5% Our Army At War
   - 22.1% Sarge Steel
   - 13.6% Kid Colt
   - 12.8% Fighting Forces

5. Best Editor
   - 26.6% Stan Lee
   - 24.8% Julius Schwartz
   - 19.6% Robert Kanigher

11.2% Murray Boltinoff
9.4% Pat Masulli
8.4% George Kashdan

6. Best Writer
25.8% Stan Lee
24.7% Gardner Fox
18.8% John Broome
17.3% Robert Kanigher
13.4% Arnold Drake

7. Best Pencil Artist
20.4% Wally Wood
17.8% Murphy Anderson
17.0% Joe Kubert
15.9% Russ Manning
15.2% Jack Kirby
13.7% Steve Ditko

8. Best Inking Artist
24.6% Murphy Anderson
22.2% Wally Wood
19.6% Russ Manning
17.3% Steve Ditko
16.3% Joe Kubert

9. Best Comic Book Cover
21.7% Brave And Bold #61
21.0% Spiderman #28
20.7% Showcase #57
18.9% Green Lantern #40
17.7% Strange Tales #137

10. Best Short Story
14.6% "The Origin of the Red Skull" Tales of Suspense #66
13.9% "Enemy Ace" Our Army At War #151
13.7% "What's the Color of Your Blood" Our Army At War #160
11.4% "Hawkman Clips the Claws of CAW" Hawkman #10
10.7% "When Titans Clash" Thor Annual #1
10.5% "The Joker's Comedy Capers" Detective #341
9.0% "Robotman--Wanted Dead or Alive" Doom Patrol #100

11. Best Giant Comic
27.1% THUNDER Agents #1
21.4% Fantastic Four Annual #3
18.9% Spiderman Annual #2
14.3% 80 Page Giant #9 (Flash)
12.7% Thor Annual #1
5.6% Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle #1

12. Best Novel
22.4% Showcase #55
19.0% Brave And Bold #61
16.7% Daredevil #7
15.0% Daredevil #10, 11
14.8% Showcase #57
12.1% Atom #19

13. Comic Displaying Best Color Work
25.2% Magnus
24.8% Hawkman
17.8% Daredevil
17.3% Total War
14.9% Korak, Son of Tarzan

14. Comic Most Needing Improvement
20.4% Blue Beetle
17.2% Mighty Crusaders
16.9% Fly Man
15.4% Son Of Vulcan
12.4% Superboy
11.1% Superman
6.6% Wonder Woman

15. Best Hero
14.1% Spiderman
11.2% Captain America
10.5% Hawkman
10.2% Daredevil
9.3% Magnus
8.3% Flash
8.2% Ironman
7.9% Metamorpho
6.9% Thor
5.6% Atom

16. Best Supporting Character
26.4% Thing
21.4% J. J. Jameson
18.7% Simon Stagg
18.2% Hawkgirl
15.3% Leeja Clane

17. Best Villain
25.0% Dr. Doom
21.4% Joker
19.2% Eclipso
19.0% Dormannu
15.4% Loki

18. Best Group
23.6% Fantastic Four
20.8% Justice Society of America
15.9% X-Men
13.6% Avengers
13.5% Justice League of America
12.6% Doom Patrol

19. Best New Strip or Book
26.6% THUNDER Agents
16.8% Enemy Ace
16.5% Nick Fury of SHIELD
16.4% Metamorpho
13.1% Total War
10.6% Nukla

20. Best Revived Hero
26.6% Dr. Fate
21.0% Hourman
20.0% Starman
16.2% Captain Atom
16.2% Black Canary

21. Most Desired for Revival
    25.4% Justice Society of America
    21.6% Spirit
    20.4% Dr. Mid-nite
    18.8% Captain Marvel
    13.8% Mandrake

FAN CATEGORIES

1. Best Article
    4.51 "With Comics Down Under" (Down Under #1) John Ryan
    4.31 "When Hawkhood Was In Flower" (Alter Ego #8) Derrill Rothermich and Roy Thomas
    4.27 "Superman South" (Alter Ego #8, 9) Fred Patten
    4.111 "The Face" (Comic World #7) Glen Johnson
    4.109 "I, Robotman" (Alter Ego #9) Roy Thomas

2. Best Regular Feature
    4.68 On The Drawing Board (The Comic Reader) Glen Johnson & Derrill Rothermich
    4.33 Wonderworld (K-a) Richard Kyle
    4.02 Picto-Origins (YSJ and TCR) Bill Dubay
    3.92 Ego Crusher (The Comic Reader) Jeremy Barry, Jim King, and Derrill Rothermich
    3.88 Rocketeer's Gossip (Rocket's Blast) Rick Weingroff

3. Best Fan Comic Strip
    4.48 "The End of Bukawai" (Fantasy Illustrated #3)
    4.40 The Eye (The Eye #1, VCC) Biljo White
    4.10 "Xal-Kor Meets the Human Coil" (SSC #7) Grass Green
    3.60 "The Fog Meets Misty" (SSC #7) Biljo White
    2.41 Cyclops (SSC, Cyclops #1) Ed Lahman

4. Best Ditto/Mimeo Cover
    4.38 Batmania #5 Biljo White
    4.34 Batmania #3 Biljo White
    4.31 Batmania #4 Biljo White
    4.25 Batmania #7 Biljo White
    4.12 Batmania #6 Biljo White
    3.76 Crypt #1 Steve Kelez

5. Best Offset Cover
    4.57 Alter Ego #8 Biljo White
    4.34 The Eye #1 Biljo White
    4.20 SSC #6 D. Bruce Berry
    4.18 Fantasy Illustrated #3 Landon Chesney
    3.91 SSC #7 Howard Keltner
    3.86 Fantasy Illustrated #4

6. Best Fan Fiction
    4.29 "Powerman Vs. The Blue Barrier" (SSC #7) George Martin
    4.16 "Nemesis Of Evil" (Jeddak) Victor Baron
    4.07 "Operation Ishfael" (K-a #4-7) Paul Moslander
    4.05 "Vampire In Chinatown" (Jeddak) Sherman Howard, Jr.
    3.40 "Doom of the Titan Wraith" (SSC #6) Robert Butts

7. Best Fan Project
    4.63 New York Comicon David Kaler
    4.55 K-a Jerry Bails
    4.36 Guidebook To Fandom Jerry Bails and Bill Spicer
    4.19 1964 Alley Awards Poll Paul Gambaccini
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8. Fanzines
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MY 8 HOURS WITH BATMAN

OR

HOW TO PUT UP WITH THE CAMP CROWD

by David A. Kaler

For once in my life, I found myself rushing through Thanksgiving Dinner! Here I was in Cleveland for the holidays and getting ready to see all of the fifteen chapters of the first Batman serial. The local movie critic on one of the papers had written up the event and even used the promotional cartoon that was done by Winslow Mortimer for Columbia. And there I was---still wiping my chin with a dinner napkin and holding a dollar and a quarter in my other hand as I waited in line for the theatre to open.

It was a very well integrated crowd that showed up that evening. There were children, adults, and refugees from coffee houses and night clubs all in the same theatre together. The youngsters were there to possibly get their first glimpse of a comic book hero on the screen. There were adults there trying to remember if they had ever seen the original serial when it first came out. And there was the camp crowd with copies of TIME in their hands or in their back pockets.

When the serial began, I found myself being transported back to the time when I was only seven or eight years old. The movie was like a giant time machine and I was only one of the passengers this evening. All I could see was Batman racing against time to stop crime and save himself time and time again. Robin was constantly telling Bruce to stop acting so tired and timid whenever he wasn't trying to save him from some death trap. Alfred was in all his bumbling glory and forever hindering the Dynamic Duo by trying to help. There was Linda Paige, straight out of the pages of an early Detective Comics, getting forever peevedat Bruce Wayne even if she did love him. And in the middle of it all was Daka, a villain that I never knew existed, playing his evil role to the hilt.

Laughter started up all around the theatre and I started to grow up again. I found myself trying to figure out what everyone was laughing at that was so funny. I suddenly realized that some persons had copies of TIME in their hands and were checking up on when to laugh and at what. They had their roles down pat because when I checked later, they had all the howls, guffaws, and roars in the right places. An acting coach would have been proud of them!

Of course the Batmobile was only a souped-up convertible. But the year was 1943 and there was gas and tire rationing to worry everyone. On top of that no one knew when Detroit would be making automobiles again and you couldn't do a car over that someone needed to get to work each day.

As for the fashions, I grew up with double breasted suits on my uncles and padded shoulder dresses on my aunts. I even remember the bangs and pompadours that my aunts kept working their hair over to achieve. I couldn't laugh at the fashions or styles for it would be like laughing at the family album.

It was just a little over a month later when I found myself preparing to see the Batman serial for the second time. A trip to Vermont had been called off and I decided to take my girl to see the serial for New Year's Eve. She was happy about the whole idea as she had never seen a serial and besides we would have champagne at the theatre to greet the New Year.

We were all dressed up in our best and I had the champagne bottle tucked under my arm as we entered the theatre. The short subject was on when we arrived and found seats. The emblem of Columbia, the lady with the torch, flashed on the screen and I was off again. Only this time I had someone with me. We both oohed when Batman appeared on the roof and pounced on the crooks. We both cheered when they escaped death and battled the crooks again. We watched in amazement as the zombies of Daka were created before our eyes. And we both got irritated by the idiots in the audience with their wild laughter.

At midnight, when Batman was trapped in a large case and going to be fed to the alligators, we opened the champagne to greet the New Year. And we both drank a toast to Batman when he defeated Daka before he became the main course on the alligators' dinner menu. We both had a good time and couldn't figure out what other people had laughed at in the film. It all depends on the power to suspend reality and become young again, we guessed!

The
Written & Illustrated by ROHN FOSS
© 1966 by REFCO
AT THE CHESSMAN MOTION PICTURE STUDIOS-
EVEN IF VELVET FAILED TO 'ACCIDENTALLY' SHOOT STORM, I'M SURE SHE'S LED HIM INTO MY TRAP!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE HE WON'T TRAP HER? HE HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING QUITE AMOROUS, YOU KNOW!
WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I SENT HER INSTEAD OF YOU, MY DEAR! SHE KNOWS THAT WHAT I HAVE ON HER COULD PUT HER AWAY... WHEREAS YOU MIGHT WEAKEN, SHE CANNOT - SHE DARE NOT!
I HAVE A DOUBLE-PLAY IN MOTION... EITHER WAY, HE'S A DEAD PIDGEON!
ELSEWHERE, THE OBJECT OF DISCUSSION IS AWAKENED BY HIS TELEPHONE-
GOOD MORNING, IS THIS THE BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS?
LAURA! MIGOD, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT YOU LAST NIGHT! I'M SORRY, I-
5

I HOPE I DON'T FORGET OUR DATE TONIGHT, MISTER STORM! IT CAN BE A COLD, LONELY WORLD, Y'KNOW!!
READY FOR A PICTURE, LAURA?
YES, AS SOON AS YOU EXPLAIN TO ME WHY YOU DO YOUR PAINTINGS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS-
-INSTEAD OF USING LIVE MODELS!
SIMPLE MATTER OF ECONOMICS! MODELS GET $50 AN HOUR... I CAN TAKE ENOUGH PHOTOS IN 15 MINUTES FOR A $500 PAINTING!
THAT EVENING—
YOU'RE TAKING ME TOO MUCH FOR GRANTED, SCOTTY— I MAY HAVE STOOD YOU UP!
MISS DAWN, I SHALL DO MY UTMOST TO OBLIVIATE ANY DOUBTS YOU MIGHT FEEL ABOUT ME... AND I WON'T EVEN LOOK AT ANOTHER WOMAN!
TONIGHT!!
VINE
Hmm— YOU HAVE YOURSELF CONVINCED, NOW CONVINCE ME!
FOR A STARTER, WE'LL GO TO LAGUNA BEACH! I HEARD THERE'S A GREAT NEW JAZZ SHOW AT THE CAVERN THERE!!
SHORTLY, IN LOS ANGELES' VERSION OF NEW YORK'S GREENWICH VILLAGE—
THERE'S YOUR TARGET... DON'T FAIL!
LIKE HAVE NO FEAR, MAN— THEY CALL ME THE NEVER-MISS KID!
PARIS
To be continued—

Fanzine Rating: A=excellent; B=very good; C=good; D=fair; F= poor. All fanzines with a rating of C or better are worth buying.

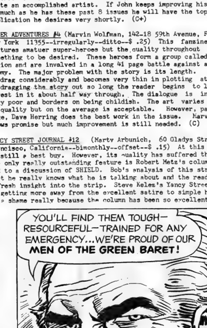
CAPA-alpha #17 (Jerry Bails, 22529 Karam Court, Warren, Michigan 48091--monthly--dit/mimeo/offset--membership) Under Jerry's leadership, K-a continues to be a high quality publication. While it never has a long article such as other zines feature it has something that no other fanzine has been able to obtain--variety. You are likely to find just about anything that is comic oriented in a copy. K-a is easily fulfilling 1st aim of being a place where fen can get together just to discuss anything that might appeal to them. It is almost like talking to each person directly. Members get to know each other pretty well. Much interesting information on comics and fandom also turns up each issue. For instance, in this issue, John Brosnan includes a satire on superheroes that is delightful but actually could have been better. The barbs are too obvious while really good satire is more subtle in its attacks on its subject. James Weston includes an analysis of the present style of both the art and writing of Batman with an excellent reference to the style of Batman in the 40s when he was at his peak. Bill Harris comments on the new line of comics to come from King Features in the near future. Other contributors this issue include Don and Maggie Thompson, Fred Patten, and a reprint of an article about Marvel comics. While this issue isn't near as good as past issues it is still quite enjoyable. The only requirement for membership is that you submit 4 pages of material every three months. For this little bit of effort you get one of the best fanzines being published today. For further details, just send an s.a.e. to Jerry and he will send the information to you. (B+)

HEROES ILLUSTRATED #2 (Dick Pryor, #8 Marquard Road, Carmel Valley, California--irregularly--offset--$ .75) This is the first issue of this fanzine that I have seen so I have no way of comparing previous issues to see how much improvement there has been. However, this isn't necessary to be able to tell that this is a quality zine from front to back. Alan Hutchinson's artwork is good throughout but it still shows a need to improve the anatomy of his subjects. As he gains more experience this should take care of itself in short time. The main article in this issue is a comparison of Skyman with The Avenger. While the article is well written, one can only wish that it had been on another subject. Skyman had been the subject of a very lengthy article in Comic World and there is such a thing as overexposure of a single topic. For those who had read the Comic World article there was nothing new in this one. The section on the Avenger was far too short for the reader to get any real idea as to just what the character was like during his short life span. No one can find any fault whatsoeverr with the 15 pages of Hogarth artwork that was included as an addition to the article on Hogarth by Harry Habblitz. The article is superb in its ability to convey to the reader just what kind of an artist Hogarth was but there was a lack of any information on the artist himself. I am sure that the readers would also have enjoyed this. The rest of the issue is filled in with cover reproductions and a reprint of an article by Julius Feiffer. With the few really quality zines around, it is a pleasure to see another fanzine in this category. If future issues are as good, HI will be among the very best being published. (B+)

ADVENTURE HEROES' HIDE-A-WAY #8 (John Buccafusco, 136 Prospect Street, Jersey City, New Jersey--10-12 times a year--ditto/offset--$ .25) There are over a hundred fanzines in existence and probably as many more that have died. The largest part of these have a single thing in common--they are born crudzines and die that way. The editors can't or won't make any effort to improve. When this particular fanzine was first put out it was pure and simple crud. However, since that time the zine has come a long way under the handling of an editor who is determined to do everything he can to make his zine a quality publication. With this issue John has the zine on the right track. There are still a lot of things that will have to be changed but I think that this will happen shortly. This particular cover features a cover drawn by Jack Kirby printed via offset. The layout has been greatly improved and the typing is far better than in previous issues. The Earthman strip was too short to give any room for development of plot but the art could stand improvement though it is better than any of his work in past issues. The article on #-D comics was far too short to be of real interest. The basis for an excellent article is there but Jerry evidently lacks the knowledge to write the kind of article that is needed. There are a number of other short articles plus several illoes. One illo of special note is a Tarzan illo by A. Carlo. It is excellent and has a lot of Manning's Tarzan in it. Mr. Carlo is quite an accomplished artist. If John keeps improving his fanzine as much as he has these past 8 issues he will have the top quality publication he desires very shortly. (C+)

SUPER ADVENTURES #4 (Marvin Wolfman, 142-18 59th Avenue, Flushing, New York 11355--irregularly--ditto--$ .25) This fanzine mainly features amatuer super-heroes but the quality throughout leaves something to be desired. These heroes form a group called The Law Legion and are involved in a long 41 page battle against a unknown enemy. The major problem with the story is its length. It tends to drag considerably and becomes very thin in plotting at times. By dragging the story out so long the reader begins to loose interest in it about half way through. The dialogue is in general very poor and borders on being childish. The art varies greatly in quality but on the average is acceptable. However, page for page, Dave Herring does the best work in the issue. Marv's work shows promise but much improvement is still needed. (C)

YANCY STREET JOURNAL #12 (Marty Arbunich, 60 Gladys Street, San Francisco, California--bimonthly--offset--$ .15) At this price it is still a best buy. However, its quality has suffered this time. The only really outstanding feature is Robert Metz's column devoted to a discussion of SHIELD. Bob's analysis of this strip shows that he really knows what he is talking about and the reader gains a fresh insight into the strip. Steve Kelez's Yancy Street Walker is getting more away from the excellent satire to simple humor. It is a shame really because the column has been so excellent before.



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QUOTES from the READERS

PAUL WHEELAHAN
Address withheld--
Policy

Have to hand your issues of The Comic Reader #44 and 45. Appreciate your sending me the same. Afraid I can't offer any too expert opinions, as I have only become aware of the "fanzine" world in the last year due to the interest and enthusiasm of one John T. Ryan and, as a consequence, have been exposed to very few of these publications. However, I must confess that your #45 issue in the offset impressed me very much--that was after I was able to turn to pages other than those concerning me of course.

I'm fascinated, as always, by the enthusiasm of you comic fans. You go to so much time and expense for your interest--and naturally it's an interest I've always had myself, even without the stimulation of such productions as yours. And if there's one thing I appreciate or cultivate after 35 years, it's enthusiasm in myself and others.

From what John tells me, all you chaps are interested in what comic artists' tastes are in the field. Well, when I was growing up, i.e. in my teens, the comics that interested me were Silverr Starr, Hogarth's TARZAN, the early Prince Valiant, Flash Gordon, and Rip Kirby. These were the ones whose artwork interested me. Others I read for pleasure were Hurricane Hawk, Li'l Abner (still a favourite, Alley Oop (whom I haven't seen in years), and the work of Will Eisner who I consider a very talented man. The comic that most influenced me in my stories and ideas as a professional comic artist was the Phantom.

John Ryan showed me some copies of Wags on my last trip to Sydney. I got it every week for about two years when I was around eight years old and I found I could clearly recall panels and even dialogue from that far back. I'd like to get my hands on some of those one day. I tried to steal John's but he expected that and thwarted me. ((I was delighted that Mr. Wheelahan could take time out of his extremely busy schedule to drop me a letter about TCR. Just as he expresses an appreciation of our interest in the work of professionals such as him, I also greatly appreciate it when a pro takes an avid interest in TCR. More information on Mr. Wheelahan's career will appear in future issues of TCR.))

Richard Alan Vincent
15496 East Eighth Ave.
Aurora, Colorado
80010

Perhaps it's because I just finished reading TCR #45 or it's because I'm in a gee-let's-sit-down-and-think-about-fandom--a-while mood, but at any rate, I have been thinking about fandom. And as my thoughts became deeper and deeper and my one good brain cell became over worked I realized that fandom isn't quite the thing it should be.

But, before I go any deeper let me hasten to say that I love comics and I love fandom just as much. I've been a member of the Academy for two years, enjoyed every minute of it, and am proud of it! It's almost incredible that fans can do some of the spectacular things that have been done and many fanzines are great. Despite what some people say, fandom can become very important indeed. So, I'm not just exercising a grudge.

But...!

Sometimes I wonder whatever happened to the Academy of Comic Book Fans and Collectors. Several months ago was the last that I saw of the "Academy News" in TCR, which, I might point out, was my only regular, up-to-date, and informative connection with what was happening in the Academy. Forum is a newsletter or bulletin (I'm not sure. You see, I'm ONLY a supporting member and I can't receive it) about the Academy's business. Surely there can't be something going on in the executive board that is so secretivethat even the members of the Academy may not know what's happening. I should think that interested members would be welcomed with opened arms. Tell, me, someone, what are MY REPRESENTATIVES doing, anyway? The largest problem of a national organization of this type is that of keeping in touch with all of the members. And yet, I'm not sure who to write to in order to ask what's happening. And I have access to no bulletins with which to keep myself informed.

As I said before, many fanzines are great. And they DO deserve recognition. But sometimes I can't help getting the felling that fandom is more concerned with fanzines than comics. In TCR #45 John McGeehan listed some 93 fanzines and I'm sure there are more. These fanzines contain virtually every type article that is the least bit related to comics. Some are good, some are extremely poor. Many rehash the same type of material.

I'll try to be more specific with at least some points:

First: Amatuer comic strips are a wonderful invention, but sometimes I think an imitator invented them. I do like amatuer strips (or at least some) and I feel they should be encouraged but one does get weary of reading flat, generally unoriginal characters that can and probably are done better in a pro comic. If you have an idea for another super-hero send it to the "Legion Clubhouse" in Adventure or something. Let's save time, expense, and fanzine space for strips that are truly unique and which the pros aren't likely to do but are good ideas. More experimentation, and less imitation and standardization!

I know! I know! Your an editor with a new fanzine and you need something to put in it. I don't suppose that it ever occurred to you that the fanzine may be unneeded in the first place.

Second: I am getting sick and tired of reading panel by panel descriptions of a second (or even first) rate comic from 194-!! If you must do a critique, do a critique, not a book report. Also, I'd like to read someone's review of a series rather than a single story, as single issues are rather distant and unimportant, and an over-all impression can only be gained from an over-all review.

Third: It seems to have become quite the thing to start adzines. To be honest, I fail to see the value of a dozen or so zines which reach only a couple of hundred fans and which themselves are only 1/3 the length of Mr. Love's RB-CC. The Rocket's Blast-Comicollector as of now is a single meeting place for all of the bartering in fandom and competition will serve to only sub-divide fandom. Instead of cluttering fandom with more and more of these small adzines, these eager souls should check to see what can be done to help increase RB-CC's frequency, which would be a definite asset to us all.

Fourth: Something that has always bothered me is the fact that most of the material in fanzines is about the bygone days of glory (to some) rather than comics of present day. Oh, I suppose, most people would rather read a critique of All-Star than Amazing Spiderman. In fact, I probably would too. But there isn't much use in mulling over the bygone past, especially since comicdom could benefit so much more from discussions of comics of present day. It is worthwhile to demonstrate how to improve the JLA by comparing it with the JSA but otherwise there is little critical value. Let's live in the present because this is what is going to develop into the future. Not to mention that it is so much more interesting for a fan to read opinions on something with which he is familiar with instead of some vague character that he'll never see.

Which brings me to my fifth point: Why must there be so many reviews of comics anyway? Surely there must be a few profound topics, theories, opinions, and so forth which may be expounded upon. I wonder why Slam-Bang has to be virtually the only fanzine which dares (or cares) to venture an opinion or to be thought provoking. There is much to be said about comic art, for instances. How about someone discussing the cartooning style or limitations sometime? There are a lot of fans who are greatly interested in this.

You know, fandom COULD be important someday. And I mean REALLY important. But if we don't become more tightly knit there may not even be a fandom. Even now things appear as if fandom may be drifting apart. And we've got to quit printing fanzines just for the sake of being a fan editor and get together to make a few fanzines that actually say something. Cartooning is quickly becoming considered an art, so why not approach it as an art rather than a curiosity. When fanzines begin saying something worthwhile, per-

haps more pros will accept it and value organized fandom's opinions.

Jeremy Barry
1755 Correa Way
Los Angeles, Calif.
90049

I am sure that Dave Kaler's reporting the facts re EERIE as Warren gave them to him but he is technically incorrect in saying there is no EERIE #1. Back in 1959, another publisher put out EERIE #1, a magazine sized comic in black and white. It had art by Gary Morrow, Bob Powell, Joe Orlando, and Paul Reinman. I saw the zine in The Collector's Book Shop in Hollywood priced at $10. This is probably the real reason why Warren began EERIE with issue #2.

One more thing regarding Dave's column. Why do so many of the items read like publicity releases instead of news? I hardly call it a scoop or a news item when Dave merely summarizes the story content of a forthcoming comic. I'd like to see more inside info on who is doing what. But maybe I'm being too unreasonable.

It I had commented on TCR just after you started editing it, my comments would have been rather critical. So I held off until I saw improvement. I'm glad to say that I think you are on the right track with well written contents and well drawn art and title headings. I don't expect color but appreciate it when you can manage to fit it in. In #45 I missed the letter column but was otherwise very satisfied. ((There is indeed a very good reason for the way the news column is being handled and things will remain the same as it currently is. Thanks for the info on EERIE.))

Gary Povlin
3914 Louisiana Street
Gary, Indiana
46409

Number 45's cover was stunningly colorful. Howard seemed to do better when doing color work since he didn't put in the sketchy look that he usually does when he does black and white work. The only real fault I could find with the cover was the somewhat dull title logo.

I guess I am getting use to Dave's personal comments after a few issues. The lengthened column gives a fan "something to sink his teeth into." I didn't care for Dick Tatge's Doc Savage illo. Not that it wasn't good but I have a different impression of what Doc would look like. Just as when Charlie Brown was given a voice in the Christmas special. Every person had in his own mind a voice for Charlie Brown but the animated feature's child talking broke that image.

I hope the other pros will be as kind as Paul Reinman to send in original art to TCR. If the very busy Paul Reinman found time to do art, the other pros could also.

I agree totally with Glen about Thunderbolt being an excellent character, especially coming from Charlton. P.A.M. has a most unusual art style and the stories were well written especially in the second issue. Also of notice is the second Thunderbolt cover. Ordinarily the Charlton covers appear somewhat faded but this covers colors were very bright.

Blue Bolt was beautifully drawn--my hat off to Bill Dubay. As a somewhat newer fan these epics prove quite entertaining. While scrutinizing the splash page I found a trite error. Bill forgot to give a "lightning cut" to the top of Blue Bolt's helmet.

As usual John Ryan's column was superb. I especially enjoyed the unpublished Raven cover by Paul Wheelahan. Please have more of his work in future issues.

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ON THE DRAWING BOARD

FANFARE FOR FINGER! It had to happen and it did! Bill Finger, the writer responsible for many of the great Batman tales of the 40's, including the origins of some of the greatest villains of all comicdom, has been signed up to write for the TV series. And a national magazine is interested in doing an article on Bill which should put him into the limelight where he belongs after all these years. It takes more than art to make a comic book great and Bill Finger's typewriter has been proving that for years.

DC's NEWSPAPER STRIPS. I'm sorry for not saying a few issues back that the Batman appearance in the daily papers would be in the Superman strip for the week of January 30th. But if you search back you may still be able to get it in some papers. The Superman strip is finally dead. The last Sunday and daily segments are being sent out and no more will appear. Wayne Boring will be doing more work in Action and Superman comics from now on. Curt Swan will be doing World's Finest and Adventure. George Papp continues on Superboy while Pete Costanza will do the art for Jimmy Olsen. The big news is the appearance of the Batman newspaper strip all over the nation on May 29. The Sunday adventure will pit Batman against the Penguin while the daily has him playing Bat and Cat against the Princess of Plunder, the Catwoman. Bob Kane offered a new exciting style in art but it is still the same type of work that you see in Detective and Batman when Carmine Infantino isn't handling the strip. Whitney Ellsworth is writing the scripts and they are straight take offs on the TV scripts including Holey Hospitals whenever it's necessary. Art is probably by Bob Kane and Shelley Moldorf. If you want to get the strip and your hometown paper doesn't intend to handle it, here are a few of the major papers that have signed up for it already. The Washington Star will carry it in ½ section on Sunday and 5 column spreads daily. The Detroit News will carry the strip in the same format as the Star. The Miami Herald and Baltimore News-American will carry it 1/3 Sunday and 4 column daily. Other papers to feature the strip are the Passaic, New Jersey Herald-News, The Salt Lake City Desert News, The Nashville Banner and the Dallas Morning News.

MAGAZINE ARTICLES AGAIN. Everyone in Fandom should have seen Life for March 11 and TV Guide issue which talked about the Batmanians and Biljo White. But Sports Illustrated for March 7 had an article on Jimmy Jacobs and his great interest in comic books, especially Batman. Canada's famous Maclean's magazine for March 19th ran an article on Superman and Batman. This gave lots of interesting insights into the forthcoming battle between National and Joe Shuster over the copyrights to Superman. There also was an original Batman strip done especially for the magazine in full color. The Sunday New York Times featured a great write-up on the Superman Broadway show on Sunday, March 27. There was lots of actual reporting on the comic-book Superman and his history. Try to get these if at all possible.

KING'S MAGICAL MANDRAKE. The first Mandrake book will contain two tales. The first plays up Lothar as he cleans up a city park plagued by crooks praying on citizens as they visit there. Mandrake gets in a few magic tricks but he uses them more in the second tale when a Flying Horse appears to help a crook raid penthouse parties and make off with gems and cash.

BUBBLE GUM CARDS. The first Batman set of bubble gum cards is selling like crazy all over the East Coast. They will be arriving in other areas of the nation soon. By then the second set of 44 should be selling in New York. These were pencilled by Bob Powell and look great. Fandom got in on these also because an academy member wrote the stories for the back of them just like Larry Ivie did for the first set. If sales continue great, there may even be a third set for fans to collect.

MORE THUNDER FROM TOWER. THUNDER Agents #7 will feature Dynamo wanted for treason. And if that isn't bad enough, NoMan wants to quit THUNDER in a story entitled To Be or Not To Be! I wonder where they got that one from. UNDERSEA Agents will be using dolphins in issue #4. Villains beware when Davey Jones joins these finny friends in an exciting story. There also are spirits and ghosts afoot under the sea when a haunted shipwreck foils the plans of the watery heroes. The lineup of books from Tower gets bigger all the time. In June you'll be able to find Dynamo in his own book facing a menace from the Moon. Tower's first war book will be out under the name of Fight The Enemy. And Tippy Teen's friend Go Go will get her own book also that month. There are more coming but I'll save that for next time.

MYSTERY OF THE SKULL CAVE! Bill Harris has written a full length adventure in which the big star is the Phantom's Skull Cave. A crook tricks his way into the cave in order to loot it of some of the fabled treasures that the Phantom is rumored to have there. Lot's of historical facts are learned as we follow the crook on his trip through the Skull Cave. King plans to make The Phantom a monthly title as soon as possible.

UNMASKING SPIDEY AND THE GOBLIN. It's taken a few years but Stan has finally done it. We finally learn who the Green Goblin is and the Goblin learns who Spidey is! John Romita turns in some great art work on this thrilling two part adventure in Spiderman #39 and 40.

BOMBS AWAY AND THE BATTLE IS ON. The Haunted Tank is stolen by a fugitive from a firing squad and it becomes a Target For A Firing Squad in GI Combat #119. Sgt. Rock and Easy Company get a new leader when they make a suicide attack on Buzzard Bait Hill. A mad Lt. from World War I takes over when "No One Comes Down Alive From Buzzard Hill" in Our Army At War #170. Fighting Forces finds Captain Hunter's search halted when he is captured by a group of teenage Viet Namese who force him to become their general in "Cold Steel For A Hot War!"

PRINCE VALIANT. Hal Foster's romantic figure of the days of King Arthur is getting big treatment again. Revell is offering an eight inch model of Val with his singing sword sometime in May. And a number of publishers have been eager to produce books that would reprint original adventures of Prince Valiant from the thirties and forties. King is also eager to get Foster to work out a new comic using Val to join the titles they will be offering for the first time this summer.

SUMMER SIZZLERS FROM MARVEL. Six huge annuals will be spread out over the three summer months from that Bullpen Crew. Millie the Model and Sgt. Fury will be going steady on the newstands during the month of June. Millie is all reprints but Fury and his Howlers have a huge D-Day tale that's all new besides some reprints from early issues. July will find Thor hitting the stands with a newcomer called MARVEL SUPER-HEROES. You'll get a great new Thor adventure but MSH will feature reprints of Daredevil and X-Men. August leaves the greatest titles to the last. There will be exciting new thrills as well as some great adventures that will bring back memories when The Fantastic Four and Spiderman show up in their yearly annuals.

THE CRITICS ACCLAIM. Museums and critics all over the world are jumping on the bandwagon and acclaiming cartoon work done by George Harriman, Milton Caniff, Burne Hogarth, Alex Raymond and Winsor McCay. The Metropolitan Museum in New York Ci-

ty has had a long running show of Little Nemo for a month now and it has drawn huge crowds. Burne Hogarth had a large show of his work appearing in Paris from February 12 to March 12. The critics were so enthusiastic that the show is now being sent all over Europe where other people will get to see the great work that Hogarth did on Tarzan and other strips. Turin in Italy had a fabulous show of original art by Caniff and Foster during the month of January. This same show has been so well received that there are plans to bring it over to New York City in September. And SOCERLID, the French societh that promotes newspaper strips, has even been offered a section of one Paris museum to set up a permanent exhibit of newspaper art in all its forms.

THE ONE SHOTS FROM CHARLTON. Charlton will issue six titles this summer which should be of interest to Comic Fandom. Two titles, D-Day and Attack, should please the war book fans. For those liking sixguns and action, there will be Wild West and Gunfighters. And in the fantasy field, Charlton will issue their first 25¢ book. This will be an all Ditko art book under the title of Fantastic Giants. Two of the tales, Konga and Gorgo are reprints of the origin tales of the huge beast. The other stories are brand new and rather offbeat monster items. In Shadows From Beyond, you'll find other tales about ghosts and mystery for 12¢.

HOLEY MOVIE MARGUEES! If it wasn't enough that the Batman serial made money wherever it played, another studio has re-released the original Captain Marvel serial in certain areas of the nation and it may hit your city soon. But the big titles to look for are the brand new films featuring Mandrake the Magician and Batman. Mandrake is before the cameras in Italy at the present time. And as soon as the present schedule of TV films for Batman are done, the crew will go to work on a full length, wide screen, technicolor tale of Batman. It will include all of the present cast and the Joker, Penguin, Riddler and Catwoman will all start off by themselves to get the Caped Crusader. When they fail singlely, they teamup for the wild finale.

HERE COMES CAPTAIN ACTION! GI Joe hit the toystores like a batallion of marines on D-Day. But Captain Action should make every comic book fan and collector rush to the store in hordes. He'll come in his own uniform but the big thrill is the other costumes you can buy to dress him in. There are nine at this time and they are Batman, Captain America, Steve Canyon, Sgt. Fury, Phantom, Superman, Flash Gordon, Aquaman, and the Lone Ranger. For each of those characters needing a special wig or facial expression, there are special faces which are able to cover the head of the doll completely. This is made by Ideal and the prices are very reasonable.

BARGAIN DAY FOR VILLAINS AND HEROES--ALL SUPER. Count Nefaria failed miserably when he tried to defeat the Avengers but he is back with a crew of baddies to make the whole U. S. Army stand up and take notice. With the Unicorn, Porcupine, Plant Man, Eel and Scarecrow as his allies, the X-Men have their fists full trying to keep the mass menaces from winning out.

JACK ARNESSON OF DELL. The editor of the Dell line of comics is going great guns as a writer also. For a dollar you can pick up a copy of "The Great Society Comic Book". This spoof on Super Heroes has such great characters as SUPERLBJ, Bobman and Teddy, Captain Marvelous, Wonderbird and many more. And his super Frankenstein comic will hit the stands the first week of May. If this one goes over, there will be other super monsters on the scene to fight evil and crime. How about a group book, Jack? You could call it "The Monster Marvels". With the emphasis on group books, it just might sell!

FLASH GORDON RETURNS TO MONGO! Al Williamson has written and illustrated the first Flash Gordon King comic book. This will take Flash, Dale and Zarkov back to Mongo to the Kingdom of Frigia to locate radium. The second tale in this book has Flash and Zarkov in the center of the earth were they find a long lost city. Larry Ivie has done a map of Mongo for this issue also. And if you can wiat until September, you'll be able to get a big bargin when Nostalgia Press will bring out a large hardbound volume of Alex Raymond's Flash Gordon. This will be in full color and contain complete sequences from the very early Flash Sundat strips including the whole Ice Kingdom of Frigia sequence! This will cost $10 and be worth it.

AURORA HAS GONE BATMAN CRAZY. They are working on a small scale Robin in the Batcave model at the present time. There will be lots of little details to make this model exciting. They will be doing the Batmobile, only it will be 1/32 scale. This makes it very small and look more like a sportscar instead of the huge Batmobile now being featured on the TV show. They're planning a Batplane and that will be 1/48 scale size. The WonderWoman doll is ready but the company is holding it back until the TV show is coming on. They hope to increase sales with it then. And they are keeping close watch on the Green Hornet to see if it will look good as a kit. Their Marvel Kits are coming along great. The Hulk will be seen in a running poistion amongst huge boulders. Spiderman will be seen hanging from a wall and shooting a web at Kraven below. They still haven't decided what to do with Captain America but it should look great!

KRYPTONITE KLUES! Superman #189 has Superman flying into space to stop a giant world from colliding with the earth. The shocker comes when he discovers that it is the planet Krypton! Nelson Bridwell has Supergirl returning to the Riverdale Orphanage for a reunion. But one of the other former residents is now a member of an underworld gang trying to find out Supergirl's secret identity and he has narrowed it down to a few girls from the orphanage including Linda in Action #340. Lois Lane #67 has the feminine newshound impersonating famous queens. She has Superman obeying her every command and he may even have to marry her! James Shooter, that 14-year-old boy from Pittsburgh, has done another Superman tale. It will be seen in Action #340 when Superman battles The Parasite. This villain can take away the Man of Steel's powers without using magic or kyrptonite. And over in World's Finest #159, the team tackles carbon copies in reverse of themselves. Their hands are full when they meet the Anti-Superman and Anti-Batman team.

AVENGERS SCATTER. Issue #30 finds the team doing solos all over the globe. Wanda and Pietro return to Europe to strengthen their powers. Hawkeye takes on Powerman, Swordsman and Black Widow all by himself. And all this time Goliath has vanished in South America while Cap and Wasp search for him. The title is Frenzy In A Far-Off Land and the story is exactly that--a frenzy.

P.S. AGAIN. The second issue hit the stand this week with many wonderful articles for Fandom. There is The Guys In The Trick Suits by William F. Nolan. Comic heroes abound in this one. And some may enjoy Tear Off A Box Top by Ron Goulart. Anyone for a Tom Mix branding iron? Issue #3 offers articles on private eyes, spies, unforgettable toys and the fabulous radio shows of the thirties and fourties.

ELONGATED EXCITMENT FROM NATIONAL. Plastic Man made only one appearance in Dial H for Hero but it impressed the Big Wigs in Hollywood. Plastic Man will be animated and on the home TV screens in the Fall. Now all National has to do is give old Plas his own comic again with art by Joe Mooney. It could be something for Showcase or Brave and Bold to consider. Meanwhile Julie Schwartz has scheduled some exciting tales in the back of Detective for that stretching sleuth, the Elongated Man. June finds his nose wiggling up excitement over the counter of Monte Carlo. July has him reading fortunes when a gypsy fortune teller brings up the Puzzling Prophecies Of The Tea Leaves. Action pervades the August issue when Ralph Dibney battles it out with the Double Dealing Jewel Thieves. But Sue will probably have a few doubts about letting Ralph go of on his September adventure with Zatana. Zatara's daughter shows up and together they puzzle out the Tantalizing Trouble of the Tripod Thieves.

PAPERBACKS PLENTIFUL! If the comic book companies don't look out all their characters will be appearing only on the shelves of your local book stores in the paper back section. New American Library promises two titles featuring Batman and Robin. The first is simply called Batman and has eight old Batman strips in black and white in one volume for 50¢and is on sale right now. By May you should be reading the first novelization of Batman ever to appear! Winston Lyon has writtenn a three parter called Batman Vs. Three Villains of Doom. For 50¢ you'll get to read the Dynamic Duo battle it out with the Penguin, Joker and Catwoman. Belmont has contacted Mighty Comics and managed to get them to do a book called "High Camp Super Heroes". You'll find a Steel Sterling strip as well as a web feature in this 160 page book for only 50¢. Russ Jones, who put out that "Dracula" book, is now working on "Frankenstein". If all goes well, he is also working on a volume entitled "Rember How Great the Comics Used To Be!" This may or may not come off but if it does it should be out by the end of the year. If you follow the Camp crowd, then maybe Dell's small book simply called Trivia is for you! It should bring back lots of memories about old comics, serials, movies and radio. And Nostalge Mdse. Company has a book out with funny illoes and blurbs that tell you where the heroes of yesterday's radio, newspaper and comic books are today. For $1, there is humor in reading "Where Are They Now?"

FANZINES NOW READY FOR YOU! Fantasy Illustrated is off the presses and in the mails right now. There is an exciting Alien Au

tumn strip written and illustrated by Jeff Jones. Russ Manning reviews Feiffer's book and does a great job of it. Richard Kyle dissects the books from Warren as well as material being done by others in the Warren style. Send 60¢ to FI.418 -H West Stocker Street, Glendale, California 91202.

Star Studded Comics #8 has Richard Green at his best in a new Xal-Hor, Human Cat strip. John Wright has done an exciting White Dragon text tale and it's great to see his work again. There's more for everyone so send 50¢ to the Texas Trio, 1830 Highland, Carrollton, Texas.

Biljo White is working on Batmania #10 right now and if you really dig the Caped Crusader, you should get your order in now. There will be a section that gives short synopsis of early Detective and Batman stories by Larry Raybourne. And you'll find that column where readers trade and sell old Batman books and items. 30¢ is all you need to get it from Bill Joe White, Box 115, Columbia, Missouri 65202.

BATMAN COMICS TO COME! In Brave and Bold #67, Batman puts Flash out of the Superhero business and practically in the grave also! Is he really responsible? Even National wouldn't tell me. Detective #354 has the Caped Crusader up against a Dr. Tzin-Tzin. This mystical mastermind catches Batman fast in a network of human fists. In Batman Comics that month, Poison Ivy will be back to place itchy problems in the path of the Dynamic Duo. The Joker and another new villain, the Hooded Hangman, are being scheduled for later stories. There also is another solo Robin story coming up. It's called"The Boy Wonder's Boo-Boo Patrol" and will appear in Batman Comics soon.

CHARLTON CHAMPIONS. Judomaster becomes The Man Without A Country when he meets the Cat, an oriental master swordsman. Thunderbolt's Case 0004 will pit him against a Chinese villain when Enters the Tong. Captain Atom finds his hands empty of villains and full of loveliness all in the same adventure. It all happens when he and a female member of the CIA are asigned to the same case...capture a villain who looks like he might be something more supernatural than human. How Do You Catch A Ghost? is the title of this one.

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA--HUZZAH! For their annual outing with the JLA, the JSA has gathered together some of the lesser seen characters for the first time. The Sandman, Spectre and Wildcat join forces with the Black Canary, Dr. Fate and Dr. Mid-Nite to battle Solomon Grundy, Blockbuster, and Anti-Matter Man. The first part of this tale is called "Crisis Between Earths One and Two". The second part is"The Bridge Between Earths". And Sid Greene is going to be the permanent inker of this strip.

RECORDS AGAIN! By now there are tons of records on the market about Super Heroes and Batman in particular. The best of the latest albums are the Twentieth Century Fox album featuring actual segments of the TV show and a Leo the Lion album from MGM which gives straight dramatic adventures of Batman and Robin. This one should be like old time radio with the origin of the Dynamic Duo featured and two exciting battles with the Penguin and the Joker. Strictly for the Kiddies are 45 rpm records issued under the BATMAN label. The songs aren't much but the album covers are wirth the 49¢ price tag alone. These are fantastic pieces of art by Infantino of Batman, Robin,the comic Batmobile, The Joker and the Penguin. Give the record to your little brother or distant cousin, just keep the covers.

BILL EVERETT. That master of watery wizards now has his hand full of strips at Marvel. Besides doing the Hulk and Dr. Strange he now takes over the Sub-Mariner strip soon. His work on Dr Strange is great. The mystic wizard finds his hands full of problems that beset normal beings when he returns to Greenwich Village. But before he can solve them, he finds himself called away by the Ancient One. And it finally comes to past that we will learn the origin of the Ancient One. And thiss comes out in a story called "The Coming of Kaluu".

AND MORE FROM SCHWARTZ! Weird things keep happening to the Flash in issue #163 and he needs your help. In fact he stakes his life on you when the Piped Piper presents some problems that leave the scarlet speedster baffled. And the Atom finds himself going bugs and this only after a few issues back he went bats. It is all because The Insect Bandit shows up--costume, fantastic miniature bug-shaped weapons and all. Hawkman can be said to be going ape because his book will once again show the Flying Apes. A fanatic priest of this earth controls the apes and Hawkgirl almost becomes a human sacrifice. Green Lantern will be meeting Dr. Polaris again in issue #46 and for the first time in many years, GL becomes the future Green Lantern in issue #47.

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #4. For those of you who missed them, the FF will show up in a repear of issue #7. You'll also find a Ditko version of Iron Man versus a different Dr. Strange. There will be a Hulk tale taken from the time when he had his own book and the original Dr. Strange meets Baron Bordo tale.

NATIONAL'S CRIME NEMESIS. Angle Man brands Wonder Woman a traitor and the whole of America goes out to get her in her next issue. Doom Patrol #105 will feature "The Honeymoon of Terror" when Mr. 103 shows up on the scene. The Last Installment in the Robotman series appears in this issue also when you learn that the "Robot-Maker Must Die". Blackhawk #223 will feature a magician with an arsenal of crime costumes that really keep the magnificent seven on their toes. Bill Finger teamedup the Challengers with the Sea Devils so that the two groups could go after the Sponge Man. You'll read it all in Challengers #51. Ultra gets to become Captain Ace Arn again in MIS #109. And Strange Adventures #191 brings back the Enchantress to take a role in that fabulous old legend of The Beauty And The beast. J'onn J'onnz is on the upswing again. He gets a new secret identity and swings right into a story dealing with a crime syndicate. The Martian Manhunter meets Mr. Vulture and soon.

MARVEL'S WILD GANG. Daredevil keeps playing Guardian Angel for Foggy and he has his hands full with the Gladiator again in #19. Thor can't keep out of fights even when he has to go to the Nether World to have them in Thor #130. Shield keeps battling THEM in #148 while Captain America closes in on the Red Skull who has come back to life time after timeafter time in Suspense #83.

SPECIAL BATMAN NEWS FROM NATIONAL. Letters keep pouring in for Pinups featuring the Dynamic Duo and their villains. Well, National has let Carmine Infantino and Murphy Anderson work up several and they look fabulous. On top of that, you'll be able to buy them in pinup packs later. They'll all be a great size for framing or scrapbook saving. Look for them soon. They are also doing a new 3-D book on the Dynamic Duo. Some new material, some old material and some photos from the TV show. This is the year of the Batman.

TV JEEBIES. Marvel will be having a show on practically every day of the week in the Fall. Hulk, Captain America, Spidey, Sub-Mariner, and Thor will be dashing through animated stories taken from the original comic books. National will have Superman and Superboy on CBS every Saturday morning next Fall. Joining them in cartoon shows will be Metamorpho, Aquaman, Flash and get this...Plastic Man! Wonder Woman will be live action as will the Green Hornet who goes on Friday evenings at 7:30 next Fall on ABC. And if Hanna and Barbera can come up with the right formula, they will produce a Fantastic Four cartoon half hour show for one network. Remember I said FF.

THE FUTURE HOLDS SURPRISES! Watch for surprising changes at both Charlton and Marvel.

A PARTING NOTE! I've been receiving letters and reports about my column from all over and I'm very glad to hear from you. But I do wish that you would be patient about many of the things I mention in my column. Some of the hardbound books and paperbacks I mention will be coming out soon, but that doesn't mean that you should go looking for them immediately. When it is possible I will give a release date for you to start looking for them. If they don't issue one in the material I recieve, then I can't mention it in my column. And I want you to know that I spend hours and days each month visiting all of the publishers and contacting many writers and artist to get the news for you. It makes me feel very funny to learn that some of you are calling up the companies to see if what I am writing is true! I can't print a word in my column unless I know that it is true and it comes from a reliable source. So if you see it in ON THE DRAWING BOARD,you don't have to call National or Marvel or Tower! I got the news from them just so I could give it to you! Thanks again for your letters and comments. Keep them coming and I will keep the news coming to you as soon as I learn about it. If some of it is late, I can't help it b cause of our difficult, time limiting publishing schedule and printing deadlines. The word to remember with this column is PATIENT. And where I mention IF or MAYBE, it means that the item may never actually appear afterall. So you can't blame me if one book is announced and then pulled back by the publisher. They have problems also and that's why items like the newSteel Sterling book and the mystery hero from ACG never materialized. Thanks!

Comic-ally yours,

DAVID A. KALER

This editorial will be short but is very important. Please read everything below carefully. First of all, Dave Kaler has agreed to take over the post of Executive Secretary but a vote by the members of the Board is necessary before this can be done. Will all Board members please sendtheir vote to Paul as soon as possible. Dave will do a great job and I urge his election. I personally pledge to do all I can to help him in the future.

Secondly, a change will be made in TCR as is explained partially in TCR #47 which will beready shortly after you receive this. However some items have been changed since that was written. I am sending this issue of ON THE DRAWING BOARD to all who ordered #47. #2 will be out the first of May. This will give you fresh news. Starting with the June issue, OTDB will be published on a monthly basis by the Gateway Comic Book Club of St. Louis Missouri of which I am a member. TCR itself will be published on a quarterly schedule as AE is supposed to be and be a large article zi ne. By separating the two, the news column won't be held up by the rest of the material. You will be able to order OTDB separately for a very small price. Complete details will be available next month. I am sure that the Club will do an excellent job or else I wouldn't have let them have it. I will still retain a great deal of personal control over this strictly news zine. TCR itself will be devoted entirely to articles. For example TCR #48 which will be ready the first of June is a long 40 pages done wrap-around style. It will definitely contain a full color cover by pro John Dixon, 5 page Bidgee about Dixon's artistic career, Question Corner by Ray Miller, a long 7 page article on the Novelty line by Glen Johnson, Fox by Ronn Foss, Picto-Origins by Bill Dubay, a text tale by professional writer Larry Brody, Secrets Behind All Star Comics by Jerry Bails and Phil Castora, Small Talk by Glen, plus art by Hutchinson, Doug Potter, Ray Miller, and Ronn Foss. Also there will be special features. This will be in the same basic style as TCR is now so this 40 pages contains more material than over 2 issues of AE and is of equal quality. The back cover will be done in full color by Reed Crandall. You cann get TCR #48 and OTDB Vol 2 #2 for $ .85. The amount you have to your credit is listed right after your address so you will know how much you owe for the two next month. Academy members owe a nickel less or the charge to them is $ .80. TCR #48 will be sent in an envelope to all. I am no longer handling OTDB because of the amount ofwork necessary for it. I feel that a group is betterr capable of handling it on a strict monthly basis as it should be. Watch for full details in #2.

ON THE DRAWING BOARD · VOLUME 2, #1
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